

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 EPG-02 FAA-00 /032 W
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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5841
INFO AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

UNCLAS LUSAKA 1615

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, ATRN

SUBJ: ZAMBIAN AIRWAYS SERVICE TO NAIROBI

1. ZAMBIAN AIRWAYS SERVICES LUSAKA/NAIROBI VIA DAR ES SALAAM, HAS BEEN THE MAIN LUSAKA-NAIROBI AIR LINK SINCE THE BREAK-UP OF EAST AFRICAN AIRWAYS. UNTIL RECENTLY WHEN AIR TANZANIA INTRODUCED ONCE A WEEK SERVICE BETWEEN DAR AND LUSAKA, ZAMBIAN AIRWAYS WAS THE ONLY CARRIER ON THE ROUTE AS WELL.

2. A REPORT IN THE ZAMBIAN PRESS INDICATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF KENYA HAD ADVISED INTERNATIONAL AIR CARRIERS THAT DIRECT DAR TO NAIROBI SERVICE WILL BE PROHIBITED. THIS WOULD AFFECT ZAMBIAN AIRWAYS PRESENT SERVICE AND ALITALIA SERVICE BETWEEN DAR AND ROME VIA NAIROBI. A FURTHER REPORT, CONFIRMED BY ZAMBIAN AIRWAYS LUSAKA, SAID THAT THE KENYAN MINISTRY OF POWER AND COMMUNICATIONS HAD "LIFTED THE BAN" AND THAT ZAMBIAN AIRWAYS WAS FREE TO CONTINUE ITS PRESENT LUSAKA, DR, NAIROBI FLIGHT 3 TIMES A WEEK.

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3. SHOULD KENYA FINALLY DECIDE TO BAN INTERNATIONAL CARRIERS FROM SERVING BOTH DAR AND NAIROBI ON THE SAME FLIGHT, TRAVELLERS GOING BETWEEN NAIROBI AND DAR OR LUSAKA WOULD HAVE EVEN GREATER DIFFICULTY THAN NOW. ZAMBIAN AIRWAYS FLIGHTS TO NAIROBI ARE SOLIDLY BOOKED (AND OVERBOOKED) WEEKS IN ADVANCE AND THERE IS NO OTHER DIRECT AIR SERVICE AVAILABLE. KENYA AIRWAYS WOULD LIKE TO INITIATE SERVICE BETWEEN LUSAKA AND NAIROBI BUT HAS BEEN REFUSED

OVERFLIGHT CLEARANCE BY TANZANIA. ALTERNATE ROUTINGS AROUND TANZANIA
APPEAR IMPRACTICAL.

4. ADDITIONALLY, A BAN ON THE DAR STOP MIGHT FORCE ZAMBIAN
AIRWAYS TO RUN A DIRECT NAIROBI FLIGHT (OVERFLYING TANZANIA)
AND A LUSAKA TO DAR FLIGHT AS WELL. ZAMBIAN AIRWAYS PRESENT
EQUIPMENT IS IN ALMOST CONSTANT USE AND WITHOUT AN ADDITIONAL
AIRCRAFT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO RUN TWO SEPARATE FLIGHTS AT
THE PRESENT FREQUENCY OF SERVICE.

5. UNTIL KENYA AND TANZANIA SETTLE THEIR DIFFERENCES WITH RESPECT
TO AIR SERVICES, TRAVELLERS HEADING SOUTH FROM NAIROBI TO EITHER
DAR OR LUSAKA ARE ADVISED TO MAKE BOOKINGS WELL IN ADVANCE,
RECONFIRM, HE BRWWS PREPARED FOR DELAYS AND DISRUPTIONS IN SERVICE.
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